

REUTERS

10 April 1986

CIA DIRECTOR CASEY SAYS NEWS MEDIA COMPROMISE SPY SOURCES
WASHINGTON

Central Intelligence Agency director William Casey accused the news media today of revealing classified information that compromised sensitive U.S. intelligence sources.

Casey told a meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, "In recent years, publication of classified information ... compromised intelligence sources and methods of the highest value."

He urged news organizations to consult the CIA before publishing information, leaked without authorization by U.S. officials, which might give hostile governments clues as to the identities of U.S. spies.

In some cases, he said, newspaper disclosures interfered with U.S. efforts to prevent terrorist attacks and "put Americans abroad as well as the country itself at risk."

He provided few details, but cited one instance in which a U.S. television network and newspaper columnist revealed that American intelligence was reading messages of a shadowy group planning bombings of U.S. targets in Lebanon.

Shortly thereafter, the sources dried up, he said, and attributed this to the news disclosures.